

Ser. No. 09/672,511

Remarks

This amendment after final is submitted in connection with the above-referenced patent application and in response to the Office Action dated August 24, 2007 in connection therewith, in order to place the application in condition for allowance based on the indication of allowable subject matter. In the instant Office Action, claims 1-5, 10-12, 14-17, 20-23, 26-29, 32-37, 42-44, 46-49, 52-55, 58-61 and 64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), while claims 6, 7, 13, 38, 39 and 45 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but have been indicated as comprising allowable subject matter. Claims 8, 9, 18, 19, 24, 25, 30, 31, 40, 41, 50, 51, 56, 57, 62 and 63 had been withdrawn from consideration in response to a previous restriction requirement.

By way of this amendment, Applicant has amended the first paragraph of the specification by filling in the missing serial number of the Provisional patent application from which the instant application claims priority, and has amended the claims by

- (a) rewriting each of the allowable claims into independent form;
- (b) amending a number of the rejected dependent claims to depend from a corresponding one of these allowable claims;
- (c) cancelling all remaining (rejected and previously withdrawn) claims; and
- (d) adding a number of new dependent claims (*i.e.*, new claims 65-70), each one also dependent from a corresponding one of the allowable claims, comprising identical limitations to corresponding ones of the rejected dependent claims which have been amended to depend from a corresponding one of the allowable claims as identified in (c) above.

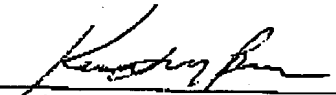
Thus, in addition to the rewriting of each of allowable claims 6, 7, 13, 38, 39 and 45 into independent form, each of the rejected claims has been either canceled or amended to depend from one of the allowable claims (as do the newly added claims 65-70). In addition, each of the previously withdrawn claims has been canceled, although Applicant reserves the right to pursue some or all of these claims in a divisional application.

Ser. No. 09/672,511

Therefore, Applicant submits that all of the instant claims are now patentable over the cited reference and that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of this submission. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney, Kenneth M. Brown, at (908) 582 - 5998, should there be any questions or issues for discussion in the reconsideration of the pending application.

Respectfully,

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